



Afghan Warrior

French Mirage at Dushanbe

**Teams Work for
Afghanistan's Future**

CAT-A Soldiers Help Afghans to Help Themselves

CoalitionBulletin




Volume #18, December, 2004

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism







THE COALITION EDITORIAL BOARD:

New Zealand  **Brig. Gen. Neville Reilly**
Chairman

France  **Col. Frank Le Bot**
Germany  **Cmdr. Ralf Menden**
Canada  **Cmdr. Ian Swain**
Republic of Korea  **Lt. Col. Hongki Jee**
Pakistan  **Lt. Col. Nusrat Ali**
Italy  **Lt. Col. Felice Rossi**
Romania  **Maj. Sorin Dorobeti**
Spain  **Maj. Alfonso Lorenzo Taloda**
Hungary  **Maj. Geza Boros-Lesko**
Slovenia  **Maj. Matjaz Bizjak**
USA  **Maj. Kevin O'Neill**
Committee

COALITION BULLETIN STAFF:

Ukraine  **Maj. Oleksiy Andriushyn**
Editor-in-chief

New Zealand  **Lt. Col. Harold Cockburn**
Azerbaijan  **Maj. Nameddin Karimov**
Romania  **Capt. Eliza Maria Guvir**
USA  **Petty Officer Joe Vermette**
Editorial Staff

Jordan  **Maj. Ahmad Al Lawama**
Arabic Translation



Editor's Note

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

Cover photo: Another box of shoes is unpacked. British soldiers delivered children's shoes donated by St. Bede's RC School, Bedlington, and toys donated by Manor Park School, Worcester, to young Iraqi children in Umm Qasr.

The views expressed in the *Coalition Bulletin* cannot be attributed to any one nation. They are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG). Contributions from all Coalition countries are encouraged. All contributors to the *Coalition Bulletin* are responsible for adhering to PAWG policy pertaining to the accuracy and copyright laws in the content they provide.

For questions concerning PAWG policy, contact the *Coalition Bulletin* editor at +1 (813) 827-1716, or write to us at cofpublicaffairs@yahoo.com. For an electronic copy of the *Coalition Bulletin*, visit: www.centcom.mil/Operations/Coalition/joint.htm

IN THIS ISSUE:

- The General's Salute.....1
- Italian Kaleidoscope.....2
- Canadian Troops from Petawawa to Deploy to Afghanistan.....3
- Iraqi Armed Forces Receive 38 Armored Personnel Carriers....3
- Korean Engineers Improve Bagram Flight Line, Security...4
- French Mirage at Dushanbe.....5
- Afghan Warrior.....6
- American Medal for Romanian Colonel.....7
CAT-A Soldiers Help Afghans to Help Themselves
- Coalition Force of One.....9
British Soldier Serves with American Unit
- Canadian Snapshots.....10
- ANA Soldiers Lend Support to Hospital.....10



The Public Awareness Working Group to Coalition Coordination Center by U.S. Central Command wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Editorial

A recent report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) advised that opium production in Afghanistan increased in 2004 by 64% when compared with opium production in 2003. According to the Executive Director of UNODC, Mr. Antonia Maria Costa, this is the highest drug cultivation in Afghanistan's history, and the largest production in the world.



At his inauguration ceremony, President Karzai reiterated his election campaign pledge on drugs, which included efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation, and to combat narcotics production and trafficking. He warned that terrorists were involved in narcotics production and trafficking. Demonstrating the priority the government places on dealing with the problem, on the same day as his inauguration President Karzai formally opened a two-day National Conference on Counter Narcotics to discuss action to be taken by the Government and people of Afghanistan in the campaign against narcotics over the coming year.

The concern for the Coalition is that the great progress that has occurred to date in Afghanistan could be undone by this increase in opium cultivation. Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to the problem. The experience of other drug producing countries has shown the difficulties faced when pursuing a counter-narcotics strategy.

Eradication has to be handled carefully to ensure there is minimal economic disadvantage. No other crop can provide farmers with anywhere near the income of that provided by the opium poppy. A government that acts to reduce the income of its citizens may quickly feel a strong adverse reaction from those whose livelihoods are affected.

Another important element in the fight against drugs is the prevention of drug trafficking. The military may be able to play a part in this by conducting operations against laboratories and convoys. The experience of other countries has shown that corruption at all levels within government can be a major problem. The development of professional institutions is the only way to fight corruption, and the international community can assist by providing training and mentoring at all levels.

The military can assist in the war against drugs, but the part played by the police and judiciary is probably more important. At present the international community is improving internal security in Afghanistan by providing support to both the Afghan police force and the Afghan National Army. In the long term, it is the police that will spearhead any fight against drugs, and it is by providing assistance to the police that the international community can best assist Afghanistan in its war on drugs.

Neville Reilly
Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group

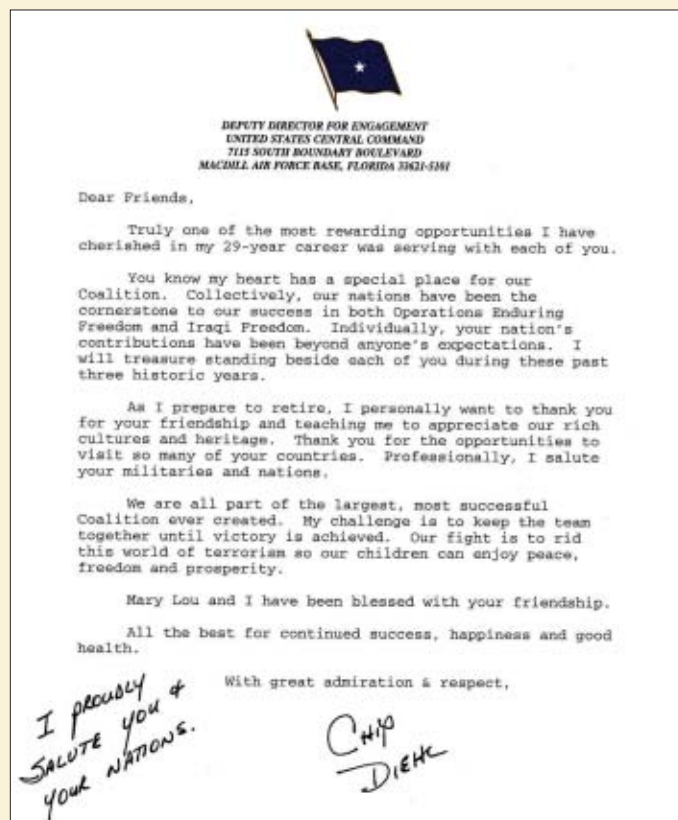
The General's Salute

Until recently Brig. Gen. Arthur F. "Chip" Diehl III served in U.S. Central Command Headquarters as a Deputy Director of Engagement, Plans and Policy Directorate.




General Diehl was responsible for building and maintaining military-to-military bilateral relationships with 22 countries in the Commands area of responsibility. Additionally, he was responsible for the guidance and sustainment of more than 70 coalition partners supporting the global war on terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom.

General Diehl received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. A command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the C-130, KC-135 and C-141, he commanded the 6th Air Mobility Wing at MacDill AFB, and the 62nd Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash.



Included among his major awards and decorations are Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation, and Air Force Achievement Medals.

General Diehl retires at the end of 2004. In his farewell letter to Coalition members he saluted the Coalition nations and their militaries. 

Allawi at Camp Mittica

After the first anniversary of the bombing at Nassiriya the Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi paid a visit to Camp Mittica to offer his condolences and thanks for the Italian soldiers who lost their lives while reconstructing a democratic Iraq and reinforcing the peace worldwide.

Allawi landed at Tallil Airport and moved to Nassiriya where he met the provincial Governor Sabri al Rumayed, the Chief of Police Brig. Gen. Mohammed Kalaf, and the 604th Battalion Commander



Lt. Col. Hamid Amer. In Nassiriya, the Italian Ambassador Gianludovico Di Martino welcomed Allawi. After that, a military review took place followed by a speech given by the Italian Ambassador in memory of the Italians, victims of the barbaric suicide attack carried out one year before.

The Iraqi Prime Minister focused his speech on the importance of Multinational Forces constituting a common front against terrorism. After that he laid a wreath at the war memorial.

Blu Matrix – Mission Accomplished

A widespread radio communications network made up of 145 mobile stations and 55 fixed stations is operational starting from November 4. The local population can now take advantage of a modern VHF communications system, created by the Italian Joint Task Force Iraq.

The Multinational Division in Basra established this 1.5 Million USD project.



It took less than two months to complete the task carried out by the Italians with the help of Engineer Teams from Philippines, India and Lebanon.

In Nassiriya the Provincial Joint Operation Center (PJOC) is now providing emergency support through an Operational Room, constantly connected with the Police, the Fire Brigade, Medical Emergency, the National Guard and the New Iraqi Army.

This communications Network is a step forward in the normalization process of Dhi Qar province and a clear improvement in everyday life.

Medical Support

AN NASSIRIYAH – In August 2004 the Italian Brigade delivered some medical equipment to the paediatric hospital of Nassiriya. Specifically, the Italian Govern-



ment donated physiotherapy equipment, heart probes, orthopaedic beds, medicines, furniture, and, the most important thing, seven modern incubators.

These machines are state of the art technology and they will ensure a dramatic increase in the future survival of prematurely

born babies or children affected by serious birth defects. In the past, when such equipment was not available, it was not possible to remedy similar situations; from now on it will be done. The health situation in the Province badly needs improvement and the Italian Contingent has committed itself to this demanding task.

Welcome Home, Ashwad!


TALLIL – Ashwaq Ghalib Murad was born in Ash Shatra in 1990. She returned to Tallil on the 14th of September after five months of intense medical treatment in an Italian hospital, as a result of serious burns to a large portion of her body.



Ashwaq was seriously injured during the conflict in April 2003. When she arrived in Iraq the CIMIC Officer received her at the Tallil airport.

Since the very beginning that officer took charge of all the medical needs related to the child and her family.

Ashwad has been able to meet her mother after a long period of intense treatment and plastic surgery. Now she may smile again, an ability lost one year ago. During her recuperation the family of an Italian Army Officer hosted Ashwaq in Italy like a daughter.

Ashwad will return to Italy again next January to continue her medical treatment and she will again be a guest of the same family. 

Canadian Troops from Petawawa to Deploy to Afghanistan



MWO Nelson Lizotte, of the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, CFB Petawawa, instructs a group of soldiers from the Afghan National Army in the set-up and operation of the 82 mm mortar, in Kabul.

**Photo by
MCpl Brian Walsh,
"The Maple Leaf"**

About 700 CF personnel, mostly from CFB Petawawa, will deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan in February 2005, on Rotation 3 of Operation ATHENA, Canada's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).


"Canada is committed to rebuilding Afghanistan through a combination of diplomacy, defence and development," said Defence Minister Bill Graham. "We continue to support ISAF in making Afghanistan safe and secure for its people as they rebuild under a democratically elected government."

The objective of Operation ATHENA is to support the United Nations-authorized mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, for a period of 12 months starting in August 2003. "The soldiers deploying to Kabul for ROTO 3 will replace those who helped make the October election possible," added General Ray Henault, Chief of the Defence Staff. "I am confident that they will meet the chal-

lenge and foster security in and around Kabul."

Formed as Task Force Kabul (TFK), comprising an armoured surveillance squadron, infantry element, engineer squadron and national command and support elements, the Canadian contingent in ISAF is based at Camp Julien. TFK is supported by about 200 CF personnel, deployed at a sustainment base in the Arabian Gulf region.

TFK is one of the major contingents in ISAF. As well as their routine patrolling duties in and around Kabul, the Canadians are involved in civil-military cooperation projects that are conducted to improve living conditions for the local people.

ISAF is a NATO-led force of about 9,500 troops from 37 nations with a mandate to help local authorities maintain security in and around Kabul, so the Afghan Transitional Authority and UN agencies can function. Liaison is maintained with political, social and religious leaders to ensure that ISAF operations are appropriately respectful of religious, ethnic and cultural sensitivities in Afghanistan. 

Iraqi Armed Forces Receive 38 Armored Personnel Carriers

**Story and photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Jared Zabaldo,
Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq,
Public Affairs Office**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Armed Forces received 38 French-designed Panhard M3 armored personnel carriers at the Taji Military Training Base north of Baghdad, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to equip its armed forces.

The armored vehicles – gifts from the United Arab Emirates – are allocated to specific IAF units as the Iraqi Ministry of Defense finalizes plans for their employ. Another six Panhards are due soon.

The Iraqi Armed Forces have recently began adding a significant armored element to its ranks with the delivery, November 22, of four T-55 Russian-designed heavy tanks and 18 multi-pur-




Soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces gladly accepted the new French-designed Armored Personnel Carriers.

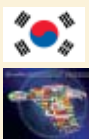
pose armored vehicles (MTLBs) to the Army's 1st Mechanized Brigade also located at Taji.

Another 22 tanks and MTLBs arrived in addition to the six remaining Panhard M3s.

Panhard M3 are six-wheeled Armored Personnel Carriers used to delivery infantry safely onto the battlefield and can be used for convoy security purposes as "gun trucks" as well.

The armored vehicles are capable of carrying a passenger load of up to 10 Soldiers, are typically armed with heavy machine guns, and are capable of traveling up to 55 miles per hour on roads. All the armored vehicles are in working order and ready for employ.

The United Arab Emirates also donated four Comp Air 7SL reconnaissance aircraft to the Iraqi government, earlier in the month, for use by the Iraqi Air Force. 



Korean Engineers Improve Bagram Flight Line, Security



ROK Cpl. Oh, Dooyi (left) and ROK Cpl. Choi, Soonchul, Republic of Korea Engineer Group, cut a piece of plywood to fit the top of a guard post along the perimeter of Bagram Air Base.

**Story and photos by
Spc. Cheryl Ransford,
17th PA Detachment**

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Coalition engineers are working across the country to improve the infrastructure of Afghanistan. At Bagram Air Base, engineer soldiers of the Republic of Korea Army are making dramatic changes to the flight line and perimeter.

“The soldiers are working very hard to improve the functionality of the airfield and improve the observation points for Soldiers who have to pull security on the perimeter,” said ROK Col. Park, Sangryool, Republic of Korea Engineer Group commander.

The engineers began the flight line project Sept. 16, constructing a parking lot for AC-130 gunships.

“Before construction started, this area was all dirt, making it hard for the Air Force to do repairs on the aircraft,”

said Park. “With the concrete in place, maintenance on the aircraft will be easier for the (Airmen).”

Even though the flight line on Bagram Air Base is quite large, there are few areas that have been improved for the purpose of repairs, said ROK Cpl. Lee, Yonghae, ROK Eng. Grp. civil engineer.

“Improvements to the airfield have been slow coming, because the U.S. engineers are still trying to clear all the mines from the area,” he said. “However, with this area clear, we can make improvements, so the aircraft have somewhere to park during repairs.”

Lee said he was happy to be able to help other units with mission accomplishment.

“By being out here doing the construction work on Bagram, the U.S. engineers are able to do construction projects at other locations,” he said. “Also, by putting in the parking

area, we are helping the Air Force do their work better.”

Besides working on the airfield, the ROK soldiers are also making improvements to the perimeter security of Bagram, said ROK Capt. Park, Byungsung, 2nd Construction Company commander, ROK Eng. Grp.

“We are building structures that will improve the watch points for the Soldiers along the perimeter,” he said.

The current barriers that form the perimeter are deteriorating, which creates a distraction and a danger for the Soldiers pulling security.

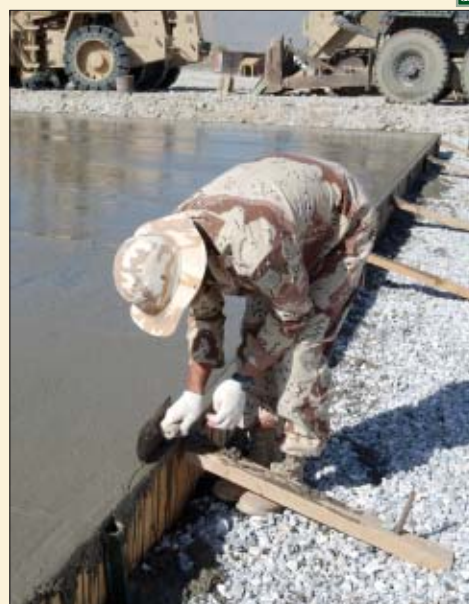
“Because the HESCOs have been used for so long, they are starting to break down,” said

Park. “With the new structures we are building, the Soldiers won’t have to worry about the HESCOs falling, and they can place full focus on the mission.”

While the projects are still ongoing, the ROK soldiers know the work they are doing will enhance mission accomplishment for the users of each project.

“Each project we do is in the best interest of the person who will be using it when we are done with construction,” said the engineer group commander. “Whether it is the aircraft parking area, the security watch points, or any other project we complete, safety is always Number 1 – for both the soldiers doing the work and the soldiers who will be putting the project to use.”

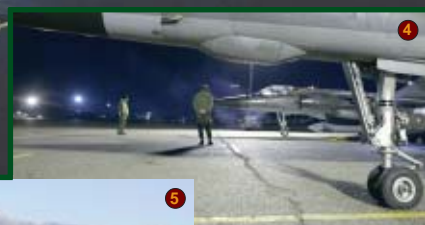
When it comes to any construction, whether it’s on or off Bagram, the ROK soldiers have a motto they live by – “If we can help, we will.”



ROK Cpl. Yoo, Jaehwan, Republic of Korea Engineer Group, uses a mag float to smooth the edges of a cement slab to create a run-off point on the Bagram flight line.



French Mirage at Dushanbe



1. Patrol of two Mirage F1CR of the 1/33 "Belfort" reconnaissance squadron.
2. Two ways of analyzing photographs taken by the Mirage: on a luminous table or ...
3. ... or on a computer screen using SAIM (Multisensor Analysis Assistance System).
4. French airplanes have also undertaken night missions.
5. A C135 FR tanker from 93rd "Bretagne" Air Refueling Group part of the deployment.

Story: ASP Marie Bubenicek

Photos: SGC Olivier Ravenel

Translated from French by LTC Jean-Sébastien Macke

France is participating in the struggle against international terrorism, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Using Dushanbe in Tajikistan as a rear base, France is committed to the Afghan theatre and three Mirage F1 CR were deployed in support of the French detachment on October the 19th for three weeks.

From the 19th of October to the 10th of November, three Mirage F1 CR from 1/33 "Belfort" reconnaissance squadron based at

Reims AFB have flown reconnaissance missions over Afghanistan from Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Mission accomplished

The outcome of the missions undertaken by the Mirage's at Dushanbe during these three weeks was extremely satisfactory:

- 22 sorties in 11 missions
- More than 80 flying hours
- 180 processed targets, covering 100% of the requests from units in the theatre or the headquarters.

Supported by one C-135 FR tanker from 93rd "Bretagne" Air Refueling Group, this deployment has been integrated to support the French detachment already on

the spot since 2001. This has reinforced the French contribution to the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Providing IMINT (Imagery Intelligence) to the units engaged in Afghanistan, the aircraft remained under TACON (Tactical Control) of the Combined Air Operation Center located in Qatar. Carrying two under wing 1200 liters fuel tanks, the Mirage's flew one or two daily two/three hour missions on French, ISAF or OEF request.

With this participation, France continues its long time commitment in Afghanistan, alongside the US, to the struggle against international terrorism.



Afghan warrior



Sgt Mick Glass and the Counter Measures detachment consisting of two vehicles (Bison AFV's) and two crews. Each member is attached to a first-response team. (Note the Queens Palace to the rear).

**Story by "Army", the Australian Army newspaper
Photos by Sgt Mick Glass**

For Sgt Mick Glass in Task Force Kabul, the war on terror is providing both an operational and cultural experience as he works alongside Canadians on Op Athena.

Op Athena is Canada's participation in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), where they contribute about 700 troops to the NATO-led, United Nations (UN)-authorised mission in Afghanistan and Task Force Kabul comprises of all Canadian Forces committed to Op Athena within the Kabul Multi National Brigade (KMNB).

For the past four months, Sgt Glass has been embedded in 11 Field Squad-

ron, 1st CER, among the roughly 700 Canadians in Task Force Kabul.

The bulk of the Task Force is the Canadian armoured reconnaissance squadron, the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), with the remaining Canadians providing support and reinforcement to ISAF and the squadron in the conduct of their tasks.

The Canadian contingent is based at Camp Julien (Kabul), and although previously the home of two Canadian battle groups, the downsizing of the Canadian commitment for this rotation has given Camp Julien an international flavour, now housing other KMNB members from contributing NATO nations including Belgium, Hungary and

Norway among others. The United States also has some troops based there temporarily.

Nestled among Afghanistan's mountains on a plateau, which is also a de-mined former battlefield, Camp Julien sits at about 1815m above sea level and provides a view to two bomb-damaged Kabul landmarks, the King and Queen's Palaces, through to some of the world's most beautiful and rugged mountains.

Sgt Glass appreciates the view as, "...Impressive," he says. "There is a rugged beauty to this place that lets you forget from time to time that you are actually in a war-ravaged country.

"But a short walk to my place of work or a drive in Kabul

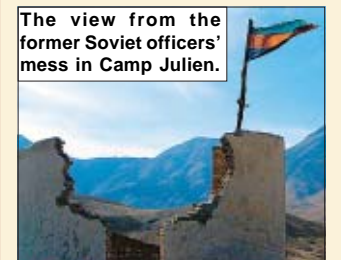
city quickly brings you back to reality."

While OPSEC precludes Sgt Glass detailing his role and tasks during his deployment, he can provide a general outline. The mission of ISAF is to help maintain security in Kabul and the surrounding areas so the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) and UN agencies can function.

It also includes liaison with political, social and religious leaders to ensure that ISAF operations appropriately respect religious, ethnic and cultural sensitivities in Afghanistan.

ISAF's tasks include ensuring freedom of movement in Kabul and the region surrounding the city, force protection, providing advice to the ATA on security structures and issues, assisting in the operation of Kabul International Airport and assisting in the reconstruction of the national armed forces of Afghanistan.

"I'm tasked with providing advice on counter-measures vital to force protection for Canadians and soldiers of other nations deployed in and around Kabul. My team and I directly support force protection efforts and are on a very short notice-to-move timing."



He says that when not on duty, life at Camp Julien interacting with ISAF's many

contributing nations (at this time, ISAF comprises about 6,500 troops from more than 35 nations) is providing an experience in itself.

“Camp Julien is an amazing place. The food is excellent. There is a Junior Ranks’ mess and a combined Officer and Senior NCO mess. Two beers a day is the limit, as long as you aren’t on duty.”

Camp Julien is built on Canada’s experience gained in Kosovo, Bosnia and Eritrea and is the main Canadian base in Afghanistan.

Built at a cost of CAN\$42 million, with about another CAN\$50 million in nearly new tents, kitchens, generators, toilets, showers, and clean water and sewage systems, it has a reputation as the benchmark in modern military bases.

“A 24-hour laundry service, above average accommodation and phone and Internet service all managed by the civilian company CANCAP, which is staffed by an army of Nepalese workers, handles all of these services and contributes to making life pretty comfortable.

“These guys are great. They are genuinely friendly and extremely polite. They will always engage you in conversation.”

For the fitness conscious, there’s a well-appointed gym with a rock-climbing wall, a ball-hockey rink and a beach volleyball court, with a popular anecdote surrounding the latter.

“... Rumour has it that the sand for the court was imported from the Middle East.

“As for workload, things have been sporadic. While my team and I have been deployed on numerous occasions, many of the calls we have responded to have thankfully been hoaxes or false alarms.

“Of the real calls we have attended, all have been handled in a highly professional manner by my team and the first-responders we support.”

Sgt Glass says the main concern during his tour was the presidential election held on October 9, which was the pivotal point in Afghanistan’s development following years of suppression under the Taliban regime, and this wasn’t helped



The bombed-out Kings Palace with Camp Julien in the foreground.

with Al-Q’aida, Taliban and Hekmatyar Gulbuddin’s “Hezb e Islami” faction all vowing to disrupt the election process.

“The mood during the days before the election was understandably tense. Attacks, however, were extremely infrequent. Rocket attacks were the preferred ‘MO’ and seemed to concentrate on the airport and ISAF headquarters (located in the centre of Kabul).”

He says the aggressive posture adopted by the Camp Julien troops, may have helped prevent any attack on the camp.

“The elections proceeded virtually trouble-free and although there were some irregularities, the people of Afghanistan seemed to revel in the moment.

“The opposing militia forces were unable to disrupt the people’s enthusiasm for democracy. I guess when you allow people to choose after being repressed for so long, it would be akin to holding back the tide.”

He says there seems to be a cautious optimism existing in the city since the election.

“A trip into Kabul city reveals bumper-to-bumper traffic and the streets packed with


American Medal for Romanian Colonel



FLORIDA, USCENTCOM, COALITION VILLAGE—Army Colonel Catalin-Marius Tarnacop, the former Senior National Representative for Romania, was awarded the *Army Meritorious Service Medal* by Brigadier General Michael H. Sumrall, the Deputy Director of CCJ4, on December 10.

This is the first time the *Army Meritorious Medal* has been awarded to a foreign officer since the Coalition was founded.


Tarnacop started his assignment at U.S. Central Command’s Coalition Village on December 1, 2003. During his stay he provided constant, prompt and thorough responses for donation operations to the Afghan National Army. He also ensured that his staff coordinated effectively and efficiently with USCENTCOM’s Coalition Coordination Center in all phases of operations.

Tarnacop displayed strong leadership and focused his dedicated staff toward accomplishing Coalition’s mission. He increased the interaction between the Romanian Armed Forces and the United States. 



people going about their daily business. Children wave to us and approach passing vehicles for water, food, writing material or whatever is on offer.

“However, the daily discovery of unexploded ordnance, the ever-present threat of improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers or rocket attacks, and the recent abduction of three UN aid workers reminds us of the dangers still prevalent in Afghanistan.

“It appears that NATO and the United States could have a presence in this country for a long time to come.” 



Teams Work for Afghanistan's Future

CAT-A Soldiers Help Afghans Help Themselves



Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cook, CAT-A 12 team sergeant, shares a laugh with a group of local boys during an assessment near Jagi. The CAT-A members use every opportunity to reach out to the Afghan youth and show the reasons the Coalition is in Afghanistan.

**Story and photos by Spc. Chris Stump,
17th Public Affairs Detachment**

GARDEZ, Afghanistan — The Taliban attempted to turn the Afghan people against the Coalition by telling them the U.S.-led force was here to rape, pillage and burn.

But countless schools, roads and wells later, Coalition presence is met with a thumbs up and a "How are you?" nearly everywhere around Gardez and the surrounding province of Paktika.

The positive response wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the civil affairs teams working throughout the country to bring much needed utilities and supplies to the war-ravaged area.

The road to reconstruction hasn't always been easy, but dedicated members of the Army Civil Affairs branch working on Civil Affairs Teams — Alpha have brought everything they can to help the people and government of Afghanistan.

"Our ultimate mission as civil affairs is to bring legitimacy to the government," said Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cook, Civil Affairs Team — Alpha 12, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, team sergeant. The team accomplishes its overall mission by helping communities

build or rebuild, one road, school, or well at a time.

"Building something like a high school goes a long way toward showing the people the Coalition is here to do good things," said Cook. "It definitely shows the younger generation," he said. "It's hard to change the views of grown generations who are set in their ways, but when we show the younger generations what we are about, they'll grow up with that and realize we're not the enemy."



Sgt. Samie Lizzio, CAT-A 12 Civil Affairs sergeant, greets an Afghan man near Jagi village during an assessment of a well in the area.

That's the effect the Soldiers in civil affairs want — something that shows over time, not just the present. "We're building a new orphanage and a city park in Gardez. Those will be here long after we leave, and the people can appreciate that," said Cook. The CAT-A mission goes much deeper than

just building structures in their effort to improve the infrastructure of the country and its economy.


"We're giving them the tools to help themselves," said Sgt. Samie Lizzio, CAT-A 12 Civil Affairs sergeant. "We're trying to get these people on the right track by giving them what they need to be successful after we're gone," he said.

Giving them what they need for success depends on whom they are trying to help. But no matter who it is, the CAT-A thinks long range. They think about how it will benefit the community now, as well as five, 10, and 15 years down the road.

"We start by helping a farmer with an apple orchard," said Cook. "Right now, he employs himself. But with a well, he can increase production, hire more people and have a good business. In 20 years, he could be employing up to 100 people — a great economic improvement for the area."

It's that philosophy the CAT-A members take to every mission — improve Afghanistan, one region at a time. "Every contract we award, the contractor must use a percentage of labor local to that area so that money stays in the local area," said Cook. "Remember 'Reaganomics'? It's just like that — the trickle-down effect. It will all trickle down to the people. I've been all over this country. With all the resources they have, they could be one of the richest in the world. If we teach them how to bring it out, they will be successful," he said.

Being a player in world commerce and reaping the benefits of a trickle-down-type system may seem rather normal, easy, or even insignificant to many from Western countries, but it's a big deal to those in Afghanistan.

"Afghans have been beat down for a hundred years," said Cook. "The people who are alive right now in this country don't know peace. If we can ease the burden and show them a better way, we're accomplishing our mission." 



Coalition Force of One: British Soldier Serves with American Unit

**MNF-I Public Affairs,
Baghdad, Iraq -
Combined Press
Information Center**

CAMP AL TAHREER (LIBERTY) — On an average sweltering summer's day in Iraq, an intercom in the tactical operation center screeched in preparation for an announcement.

"Attention in the TOC," the voice said in a thick British accent. "The daily (order) is now posted. God save the Queen!"

The voice belonged to Maj. John Wright, a British plans officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Wright's diverse experience with both British and American militaries makes him a valuable asset to the plans team.

Wright volunteered to work with American forces through an exchange program with the United Kingdom and the United States. He and his wife and three children moved to Fort Drum, N.Y. and Wright began working for the 10th Mountain Division.

He served in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army. There he met and worked for Col. Mark Milley, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander. When 2nd BCT received confirmation that they were going to Iraq, Milley requested that Wright come with them. Wright enthusiastically agreed.

"I knew we were doing good things in Iraq and I wanted to be a part of it," Wright said. "I wanted to see the world's superpower at work."

Wright is no stranger to combating terrorism. Aside from serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, he also served as a company commander in Northern Ireland. Wright said the United Kingdom has a common cause with the United States in the war on terrorism.



Maj. John Wright, a British plans officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, with his colleagues from the U.S. Armed Forces.

"It's not just the United States's war. It is a war against terrorism," he said. "We had potential terrorist attacks in the UK. They were fortunately stopped. We are just as much a target. Everyone in the free world has to assume responsibilities for their freedom."

Wright said he enjoys working with American Soldiers. Sgt. Matthew Crowder, a plans non-commissioned officer, said 2nd BCT has also enjoyed and benefited from Wright's expertise.

"He gives us a different perspective," Crowder said. "He gives us a different way to look at a problem other than the traditional plans process. When we reach a road block, having an outside view gets you thinking

about a different way to view things."

Wright's personality, especially his dry humor, is also a welcome relief from the daily pressures of a combat zone, said Staff Sgt. Robert Ross, plans NCOIC. "He's a very good guy,"

"They're basically all dirty," Ross said, about the new slang terms Wright taught his fellow Soldiers. "If we didn't see James Bond movies, we'd have no idea what he was saying."


Despite differences in language and culture, Wright said American and British Soldiers share similar work ethics and beliefs.

"They're enthusiastic, dedicated and professional Soldiers," Wright said. "Our countries are very similar. I enjoyed working with our allies. It's been a worthwhile experience. It was good to be here, a great opportunity. I made some good friends."

Crowder agreed that working with Wright was a rewarding experience. The combined effort of Coalition forces will also reap benefits for both sides, he said.

"Working hand-in-hand shows it wasn't just the United States fighting alone," Crowder said. "It's reassuring that even in the hard times, we have someone watching our backs."

Wright said British and American forces have the same intentions in Iraq- they both want to create a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq to thrive in.

"We're doing the right thing," Wright said. "We do it for the Iraqi people to have a chance to prosper in peace without fear. We're sincere in our efforts. If we don't follow through (in Iraq), there will be anarchy. A rouge state would be created. We have to succeed here." 

Ross said. "He's very light-hearted. He keeps the stress level down in stressful times."

"The stories he tells really lighten the mood," Crowder added. "But when it comes down to work, he's all business. He makes sure the mission is accomplished. He's a very hard worker who is tireless in how he tackles projects."

Wright also said his American counterparts are learning to deal with his "quirks and eccentricities," referring to sayings and mannerisms foreign to Americans.

"He says regular British sayings, slang terms that most people don't understand that we now understand," Sgt. Crowder said.



Canadian Snapshots



The new Gelaendenwagon, parked at Camp Julien in Kabul, Afghanistan.

**Photos by Cpl. Robert Bottrill,
Canadian Forces Combat Camera**

The G-Wagons, from Mercedes Benz, deployed to Operation Athena in March 2004, are augmenting the 19 year old Iltis vehicles. G-Wagons are used to provide tactical control transport in the fields of command and control, liaison, military police and reconnaissance.

The mission of Canada's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), known as Operation Athena, is to maintain security in Kabul and its surrounding areas so the Afghan Transitional Authority and United Nations agencies can rebuild the country. At this time, ISAF comprises approximately 8,300 troops from 37 Nations.



Canadian Forces soldiers travel through the streets of downtown Kabul, Afghanistan in the new Gelaendenwagon (G-Wagon).



Members of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER), use the Nyala vehicle to prove roads in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan.

The Nyala vehicles are used by Field Engineer Reconnaissance units to evaluate routes in areas where the mine threat is high. The vehicle is designed to resist a blast equivalent to two anti-tank mines detonating simultaneously. **CU**



ANA Soldiers Lend Support to Hospital



**Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis,
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan**

POL-E-CHARKIE, Afghanistan — As the old saying goes, the best way to appreciate something is to do it for yourself. That's what the Afghan National Army soldiers of the Central Corps' 3rd Brigade from Pol-e-Charkie are finding out. They are learning to appreciate what it means to do a little something extra for their fellow Afghans.

The 3rd Brigade's ANA surgeon, Zazzi Rullah, let the brigade know the hospital needed help, said Lt. Col. Christopher Conley, medical advisor for the 3rd Brigade Embedded Training Team staff, New Hampshire National Guard.

Built by India in 1975, the hospital was in need of serious assistance. The hospital has 350 beds for children and treats approximately 700 outpatients per month.

Shortly after receiving this information, Conley and staff members of the ANA met with Rohullah Rasekn, the hospital's director, to conduct an assessment. "The day we went to the hospital, the weather was very

proval, they obtained 100 heaters using a Commander's Emergency Relief Program fund. The heaters were taken to the hospital and installed by ANA soldiers with help from the hospital's electrician.

larly visit the hospital to deliver candy and gifts to ill children. The 3rd Brigade headquarters requests each kandak (battalion) in the brigade to provide five to six soldiers to help when a visit is scheduled.

Mohammad Khan, a 3rd Brigade soldier, said he likes coming to the hospital to help. "It takes away from the normal day-to-day of soldering. I like seeing the people, and bringing gifts and supplies to the sick children."

"Now that the Americans have helped with setting the program up, it belongs strictly to the ANA. We come along as needed to forecast CERP funds," said Conley.

For the men of 3rd Brigade of the ANA, that desire is heightened by knowing that those they help are the children who are the future of Afghanistan. The same generation the ANA has pledged to defend. **CU**



ANA soldiers give a hallway of the Kabul Children's Hospital a good cleaning.

cool and the children's rooms we visited were ice cold," said Conley.

Once they received ap-

In addition to installing the heaters, the ANA soldiers also helped with cleaning projects and prepping the hospital to get a fresh coat of paint. They regu-